

WICKERSHAM AGAINST RECALL

SAYS IT LEAVES GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A PROPEL

Believes Competition Under Sherman Law Has Been Restored Calls Holding Company Greatest Engine for Creating Monopoly Heedless.

Attorney-General Wickersham was expected to a friendly hearing at two meetings that he addressed last night at the opening session of the finance forum at the West Side Y. M. C. A. The first meeting was in the Y. M. C. A. building on Fifty-seventh street, the other, overflowed, was held across the street in the Church of the Strangers.

Mr. Wickersham admitted that there was a trust problem to be solved and thought that the solution lay in the State. In no case should special privilege be conferred without the certainty of adequate recompense, he said.

Mr. Wickersham said that he believed our institutions strong enough and efficient enough to meet any evil, but he thinks the State erred at the outset in failing to provide means to prevent the conditions and to prevent the conferring of privilege without regulation and control.

There are now, he said, no adequate means at hand to check misrepresentation. No group of business partners, he asserted, has ever gained power that seriously menaced the community. Such power has always been exercised by corporations to which official privileges have been given.

Mr. Wickersham does not believe in the recall. Officials must be sufficiently secure to resist the clamor sometimes even of the majority, and indeed should be free from interference. The existence of all strong government he believes rests on a free and fearless judiciary, and any interference with it would wreck the government. It would wreck the government by its way of thinking there was no reason to believe that any group of business partners, he asserted, has ever gained power that seriously menaced the community. Such power has always been exercised by corporations to which official privileges have been given.

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EDNA SHOWALTERS ESSAYAGE

SAYS Italian Influence Froze Her Out of "Girl of the Golden West."

Edna Showalter, who was the first singer engaged to take part in Henry W. Savage's production of "The Girl of the Golden West" in English, began suits for \$32,500 damages against that manager yesterday.

In one suit she asks for \$25,000 because Mr. Savage keeps on using her name and photograph, although he discharged her on November 2, and in the other she asks for \$7,500, which is alleged to be due in salary.

Miss Showalter was engaged for ninety appearances and says that she was unjustly discharged after two performances. She thinks the Italian influence in the company emanating from Puccini's publishers in Milan was responsible for her difficulties from the time the rehearsals began.

"Last spring," Miss Showalter said yesterday, "I was engaged to sing the role of Minnie. I was told that as an American singer the conditions would be made favorable for me. Tito Ricordi heard me sing and approved of my selection as the American soprano of the company."

The rehearsals lasted four weeks. In the first week the rehearsals were in charge of an American conductor named Moulton. He had spent the summer at Rome and Milan with Puccini and was familiar with the changes that had been made in the work. At the end of the first week Signor Polacco arrived and took charge of the rehearsals. For a week he ignored me completely.

"I was told," Miss Showalter went on, "that I would be made the prima donna in the first night of the performance in all the large cities and that the one to take place in Waterbury would be scarcely more than a dress rehearsal. It happened, however, that my first appearance was arranged for an afternoon performance at Bridgeport. I sang with a conductor with whom I had never rehearsed, and the result was a disaster. There was a small audience, but it was successful and both Mr. Savage and Signor Polacco between the acts came back to congratulate me."

"But when I went to my dressing room in Syracuse I met two business managers of the Savage company waiting to tell me that my engagement for ninety appearances and being terminated after two, I asked why this had been done and was told that I was a lyric soprano and the role of Minnie required a dramatic singer."

James Shesgren, representative for Henry W. Savage, said yesterday that there is no influence from Ricordi or from any Italian conductor in the Savage company. Mr. Savage's management and Mr. Savage has no criticisms to make of Miss Showalter's singing. She has a beautiful voice and sings well, but she was never on the stage before and Mr. Savage concluded after seeing her twice that she was unequal to such an exacting role as the heroine of David Belasco's play in operatic form, Mr. Shesgren said.

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HEARD IN HOTEL CORRIDORS

ALASKA COAL FUS, MAKING DEMOCRATIC VOTES.

So Says the ex-Skipper of a Prairie Schooner—Potomac Oyster Farming Pays As to Lost Overcasts, Nixon, Back From Europe, on Lobbies.

Henry Bratton, who went west in the '90s in a prairie schooner and tied up in Montana for about twenty-five years, is at the Wolcott on his annual visit. In the last twelve years Mr. Bratton has been making money in and out of Alaska, but now makes his home in Taboma. He went to Alaska with the first gold rush, and was in Juneau when the news came out of Dawson City about the discoveries. He has travelled over almost every part of the Territory since then.

"Placer mining in Alaska is almost a thing of the past," said Mr. Bratton yesterday. "It has got down now to dredging, and the man who has been going about looking for gold on his own account is about through. Work requires good sized capital now. Some folks still make money out of selling an electric light plant that will not pay to an English syndicate."

"We are still hoping that the coal in Alaska will be mined. It is needed all along the Pacific coast. What wood there is along the coast won't burn, and the Copper River Railroad has to import coal from Japan, though every time it lays a tie it has to kick out of the way coal that it can't use because the Government won't let it."

"The Alaska coal question has a great reputation among the men who know Alaska by its ability to go up there and size up the situation correctly in a short time. He was absolutely right about Controller Bay being of no account. If it had been the Copper River Railroad would not have neglected it in favor of Cordova as a terminus. Hawkins, the chief engineer of the Copper River Railroad, made a thorough examination of the bay before the road was built and decided it would not make a port at all. It is no harbor. The delta of the Copper River makes it impossible to build piers there that will be of any value. You can drive your pile all right, but as far as deep water, but by the time you have got your pier built the channel that you reached has filled up with silt and a new channel has been made hundreds of yards from where your pier is."

"The Alaska coal question is steadily making Democratic votes on the coast, where many people believe in Ballinger, as opposed to Pinchot."

"I believe that President Taft's trip to Washington did him much good, because he promised to do what he could to open the coal lands. The people blame Roosevelt for the present situation, and they might vote for Taft, whereas they would scotch Theodore. However, a strong Democratic candidate would get the vote of the Pacific coast."

The wife and the daughter of an American diplomatist have lived so long abroad that they have forgotten about the coinage of their native country. At least that is the way the mother explained it to the hotel clerk when she got puzzled over how many quarters make a half dollar.

The daughter made some comment. "I'm no worse than you are," retorted the mother. "You tried to pay for an ice cream soda the other day with a fifty dollar bill."

A young, nervous looking man went up to the desk at the Belmont shortly after noon yesterday and asked the price of double rooms, with baths. He was told, and asked to see several. The clerk gave the key the keys of the \$1 and \$5 rooms.

"Can I see some of the more expensive ones too?" inquired the young man hesitatingly.

"I'll bet you'll take one of the higher priced ones," remarked the clerk when the other had gone upstairs. He came back after a few minutes.

"I'll take the eight dollar one," he reported. "Can I register now?"

He did so, writing "Mr. and Mrs.," his lips compressed to keep back a self-conscious smile, and proffered a twenty dollar bill in payment. The clerk told him to settle when he gave up the room. "I'll have some baggage," he asked.

"Oh, of course," was the reply. "That will come around later."

"If a bride couple that is just about to be," sized up the sage clerk. Just then the young man, who had got as far as the door, came back.

"I suppose if some flowers are sent here they will be picked about the room," he inquired.

Colin Livingston, who is president of the Potomac and Chesapeake Steamboat Company and lives in Washington, said yesterday at the Waldorf that the latest thing of interest in the country tributary to the Potomac was that a man from Michigan, a farmer, had bought a place on the Virginia side, below Colonial Beach, and made a success out of oyster farming.

"This man," said Mr. Livingston, "sold his farm out in Michigan for \$100 an acre and bought land in Virginia at \$10 an acre. His property has a good frontage along the river, so he started in planting oysters, and now makes as much profit out of his oyster bed as he did out of his Michigan farm. Besides, there is the produce from his farm. He is now trying to induce some of his old neighbors to move down there with him, and a colony of oyster farmers is being started."

He says: "What the use of going to Canada when you can get land so cheaply near the capital of the United States?"

"Down there there are many small factories that boil tomatoes and can them. Owing to the perishable nature of the crop the factories ring a bell when they want tomatoes, but many farmers are too lazy to pick them. The Michigan man told me he believed there were \$100,000 worth of tomatoes going to waste every year in that region because of laziness."

The entire edition of "MOTHER" is sold out and you will not be able to get it for Thanksgiving reading.

Place an order for the book at the bookstore to-day and you will get on Saturday next a copy of "The brightest, cheeriest little story that ever brought unaccountable tears to a woman's eyes."

OLD time Books, Songs, out of print Books, French Books. PRATT, 161 6th av.

NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Mrs. S. J. Kramer, Prof. Morris Loeb, Isidor M. Levy and Joseph Barondess.

Mayor Gaynor made ten appointments to the Board of Education yesterday for terms of five years each. All except four were reappointments. The new members are Prof. Morris Loeb of 273 Madison avenue, Isidor M. Levy, lawyer, of 320 Broadway, whose home is at 87 Madison street, Joseph Barondess of 1530 Fifty-second street, Brooklyn, and Mrs. S. J. Kramer of 238 West 130th street.

Mrs. Kramer succeeds Mrs. Helen C. Robbins, who resigned about a week ago. She is the president of the Associate Alumnae of the Normal College, of which she is a graduate, and has been a member of the local school board of her district for the last ten years.

Prof. Loeb is a son of the founder of the firm of Kuhn, Loeb & Co. He is president of the Hebrew Technical Institute for Boys. He is a graduate of Harvard and of the University of Berlin, was a student at the University of Heidelberg, 1877-88, and the University of Leipzig in 1888. He was professor of chemistry at the New York University up to a few years ago.